

**DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL**

*The California Highway Patrol is a law enforcement and traffic safety agency reporting to Business, Transportation and Housing Agency Secretary Maria Contreras-Sweet and Governor Gray Davis.*



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**CHP RECEIVES INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR PROBLEM-ORIENTED POLICING**

**SACRAMENTO**—The California Highway Patrol's Corridor Safety Program, which has contributed to saving hundreds of lives on many dangerous rural roadways, recently was awarded the prestigious Herman Goldstein Award for Excellence in Problem-Oriented Policing presented by the Police Executive Research Forum.

The CHP, one of six award finalists, was presented this international award at the Forum's annual conference in San Diego. It was attended by approximately 1,000 law enforcement professionals from city, county, and state law enforcement agencies nationwide, along with representatives from Canada, the United Kingdom, Sweden and Norway.

This was the first time the award was given to a state law enforcement agency.

The CHP's Corridor Safety Program is a successful effort that identifies specific rural highway segments struggling with higher-than-average fatal and injury collisions. With the help of a diverse group of public and private interests, specific safety improvements are identified and implemented. The CHP has used this community-oriented approach on 22 corridor projects throughout the state.

"Corridor projects have been instrumental in saving hundreds of lives," said CHP Assistant Commissioner Joseph A. Farrow. "They are an innovative approach in which the CHP brings citizens, government, and other groups together to identify traffic safety problems and apply common-sense solutions."

The CHP's award entry highlighted one particular corridor project, the State Routes 41/46 Corridor Safety Project. This one-year effort, concluded in 1996, helped reduce deaths and injuries

along a 50-mile stretch of rural road connecting Interstate 5 and US 101 in Kern and San Luis Obispo counties. The 41/46 Corridor Safety Task Force recommended 48 safety improvements in four areas: enforcement, emergency services, engineering, and public education. Many of these improvements were made, resulting in a 35 percent reduction in deaths and a 37 percent reduction in injuries in the four years following the project's completion.

“The corridor concept works,” said Farrow. “Corridors reap benefits that last years after a project is completed. They also leave a framework that local communities can use to monitor traffic safety once the CHP, as a statewide agency, steps away.”

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